

DEATH CROWDS THE COCKPIT!

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IN ACTION**

DANGER

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hip Pocket Gym \$3.95 | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Set \$2.98 |
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They claim

THIS COUPON

brings you "good luck"



"Six months after mailing the coupon, I had a promotion and a big raise in pay!"



"From the moment I marked the coupon, my luck changed!"



"My break came when I sent the coupon!"

These statements are typical! I.C.S. gets letters like these regularly. Coupon senders report pay raises. Others win important promotions or new, interesting assignments. Still others find happiness, job security, opportunities never dreamed possible.



It is LUCK? The results are so impressive, so quick in coming, that some say the I.C.S. coupon is "lucky." Of course, that's not true. The real reason for these amazing results is what happens to the person when he or she mails the coupon.

Coupon is first step! Naturally, you want to make good. But you've put off doing something about it. Mailing this coupon is *definite action!* It shows you're fed up with waiting for the breaks. You're determined to make your own breaks! And this determination alone accounts for much of the "luck" you'll start to experience.



You get free guidance! Within a few days you get the helpful and inspiring 36-page book, "How to Succeed." It's crammed with information! For example, it tells you in detail how to plan your career. Also how to prepare for advancement. In addition, you get a free catalog on the I.C.S. course that interests you. With your new-found determination and these two books as your guides, you're ready to cash in on your hidden abilities.

391 I.C.S. courses! You'll find a partial list of courses in the coupon below. Each course is up-to-date, extremely practical, completely success-tested. You study in your spare time. Set your own pace. Correspond directly with instructors. Cost is low. Diplomas are awarded to graduates. I.C.S. training rates high in all fields of business and industry. You won't find another school like it.

Call it being "lucky" or being "smart." Whatever it is, you're one step closer to your goal when you mail this famous coupon!

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Without cost or obligation, send me "HOW TO SUCCEED" and the booklet about the course BEFORE which I have marked X-

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- ☐ Magazine and Book Illustrating
- ☐ Cartooning
- ☐ Show Card and Sign Lettering
- ☐ Fashion Illustrating
- ☐ Automobile Mechanic
- ☐ Auto Elec. Technician
- ☐ Auto Body Rebuilding and Refinishing
- ☐ Diesel-Gas Engines
- ☐ AVIATION
- ☐ Aeronautical Engineering II
- ☐ Aircraft Engine Mechanic
- ☐ Airplane Drafting
- ☐ BUILDING
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Arch. Drafting
- ☐ Building Contractor
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- ☐ Carpenter and Mill Work
- ☐ Carpenter Joining
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- ☐ House Planning
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- ☐ Pulp and Paper Making
- ☐ Plastics

CIVIL, STRUCTURAL

- ☐ ENGINEERING
- ☐ Civil Engineering
- ☐ Structural Engineering
- ☐ Surveying and Mapping
- ☐ Structural Drafting
- ☐ Highway Engineering
- ☐ Reading Blueprints
- ☐ Concrete Construction
- ☐ Sanitary Engineering
- ☐ DRAFTING
- ☐ Aircraft Drafting
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- ☐ Mechanical Drafting
- ☐ Structural Drafting
- ☐ Sheet Metal Drafting
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- ☐ Sheet Metal Pattern Drafting
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- ☐ POWER
- ☐ Combustion Engineering
- ☐ Diesel-Electric
- ☐ Electric Light and Power

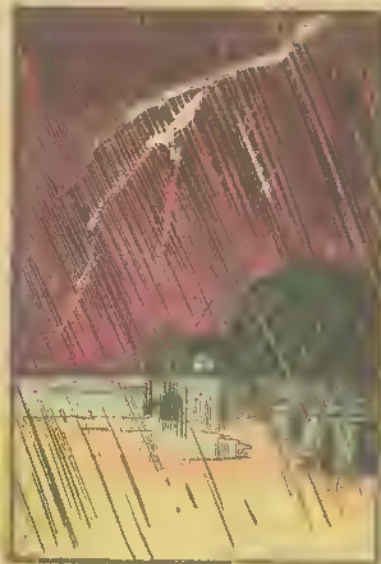
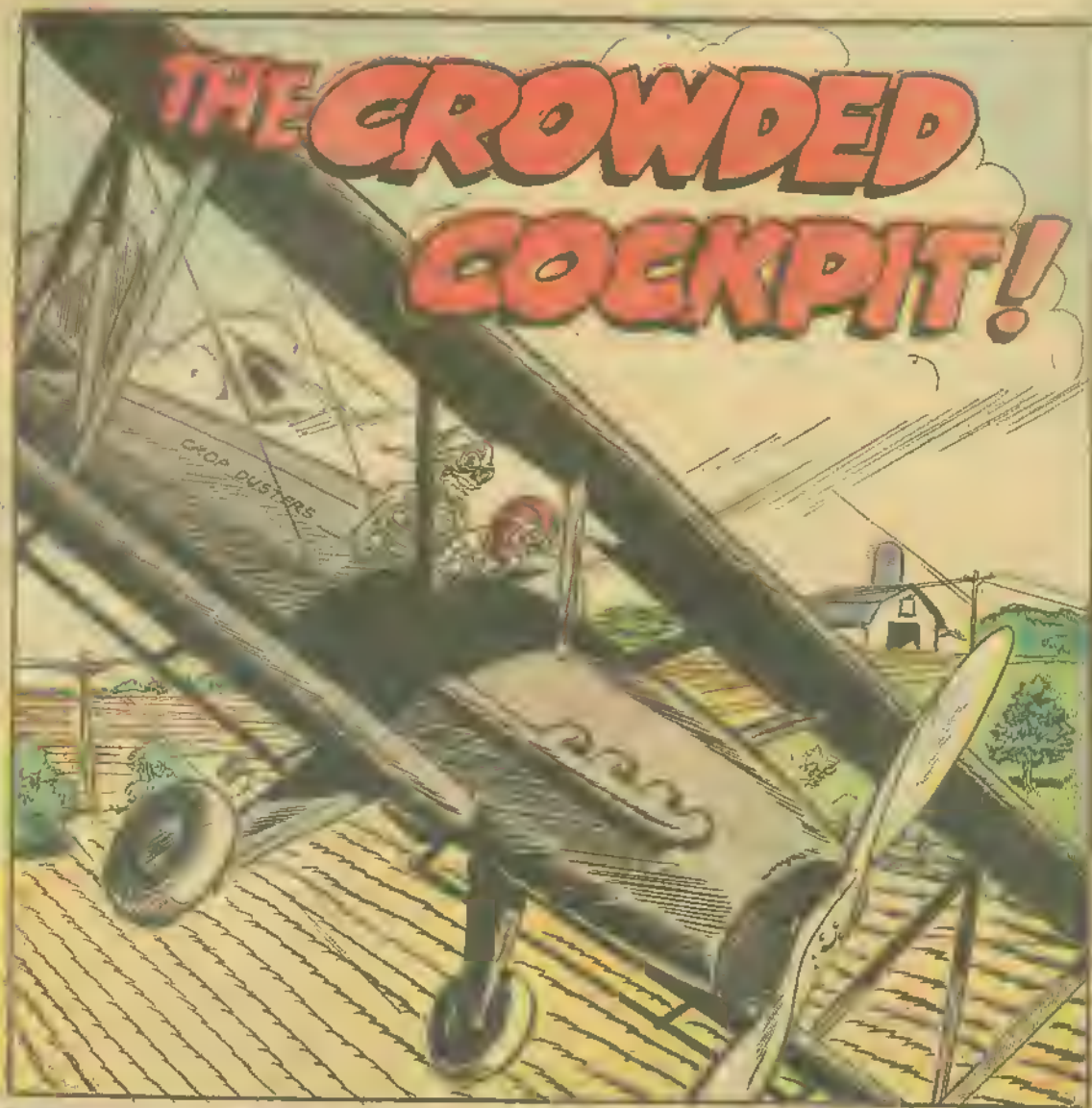
- ☐ Stationary Steam Engineering
- ☐ Stationary Locomotion
- ☐ RADIO, TELEVISION, COMMUNICATIONS
- ☐ General Radio
- ☐ Radio Operation
- ☐ Radio Servicing-FM
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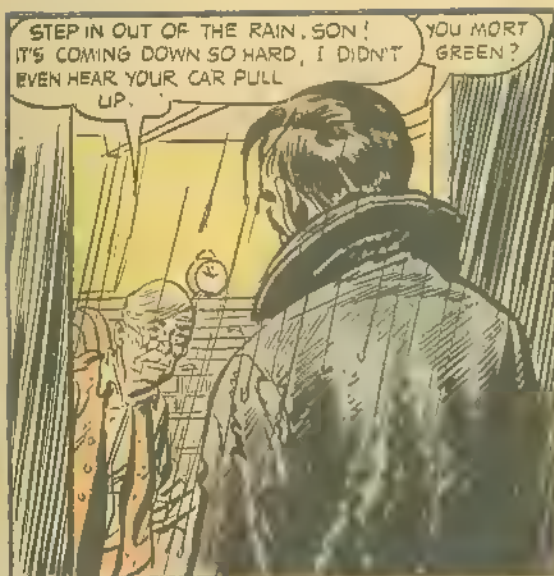
Name _____ Age _____ Home Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____ Working Hours _____ A.M. to _____ P.M.

☐ If under 18, check here for booklet A.

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STEP IN OUT OF THE RAIN, SON! IT'S COMING DOWN SO HARD, I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOUR CAR PULL UP.

YOU MORT GREEN?



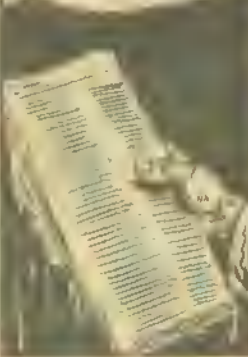
SOMETIMES WISH I WASN'T - BUT THAT'S ME, ALL RIGHT. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I READ YOUR AD IN THE PAPER. **PILOTS WANTED**. IT SAID, I'M A PILOT!

MORT GREEN SLUMPS DOWN INTO THE CHAIR BEHIND HIS DESK - AND FOR A LONG TIME HE SAYS NOTHING AT ALL...



THAT MUST BE AN OLD PAPER YOU GOT THERE, SON. THAT AD RAN LAST MONTH. TWO BOYS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR FLYING JOBS WITH ME SINCE. THEY'RE BOTH **DEAD** NOW!



CAN'T SAY OTHERWISE... THERE'S GOOD MONEY IN CROP SPRAYING. BUT THERE'S **DANGER** TOO - AT LEAST **50 DEATHS** EVERY SEASON! YOU SIGN UP WITH ME, SON... THERE AIN'T AN INSURANCE MAN WHO'LL COME INSIDE 10 MILES OF YOU...



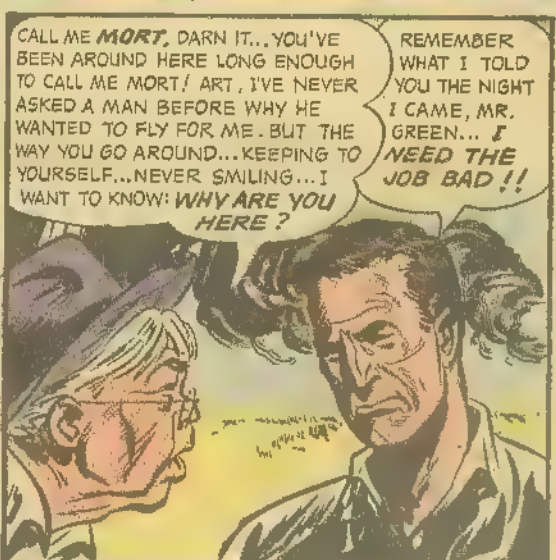
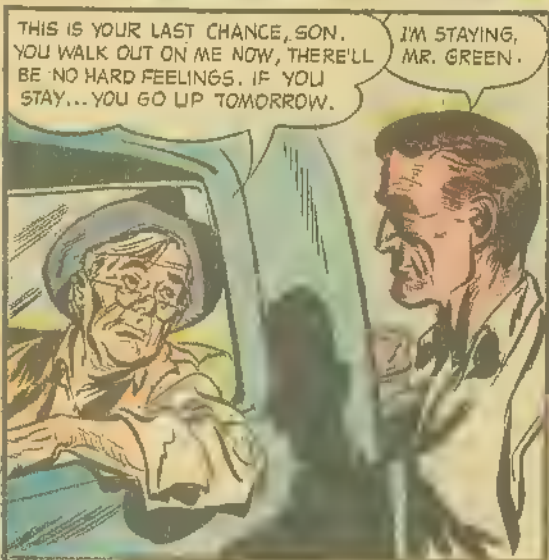
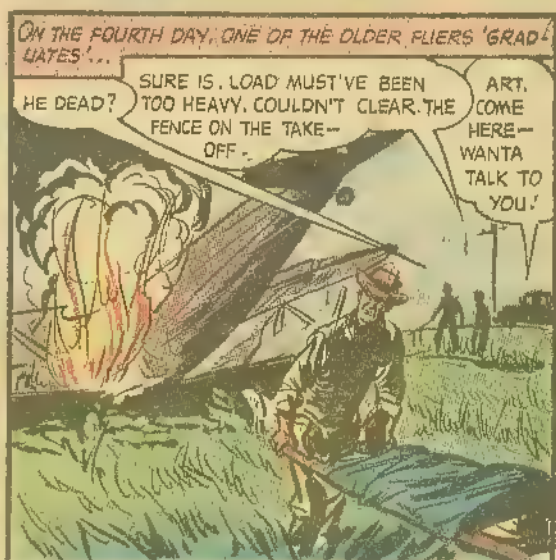
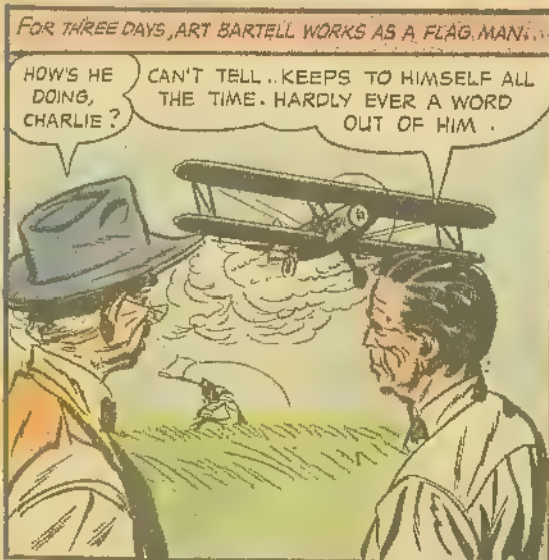
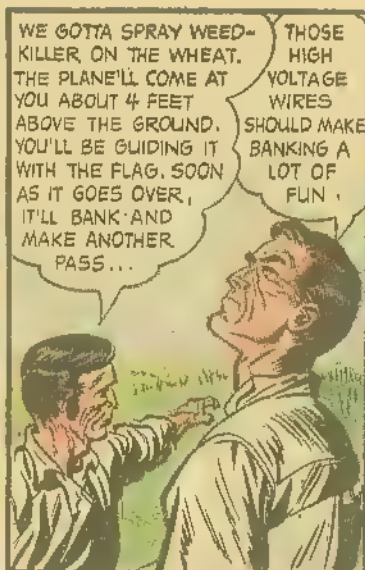
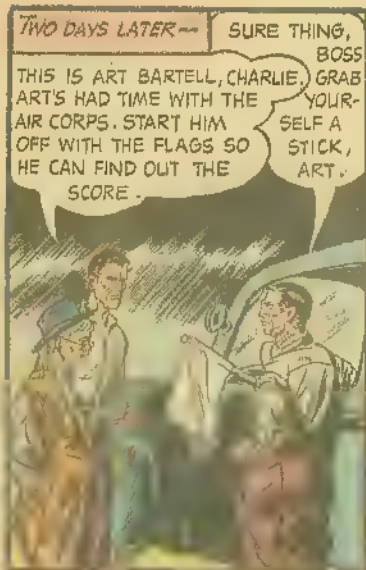
THAT'S THE PICTURE, SON. I DON'T WANT YOU WALKING INTO ANYTHING WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED, NOW TELL ME - **DO YOU NEED A JOB THAT BAD?**



THE STRANGER HAS TO WAIT BEFORE HE CAN ANSWER. FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES AN EAR-SPLITTING CLAP OF THUNDER TO RUMBLE INTO NOTHINGNESS, THE STRANGER HAS TO WAIT...



YEAH... **I NEED IT THAT BAD.**



THE NEXT MORNING, ART IS MAKING HIS FIRST PASS OVER A FIELD OF MESQUITE TREES...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BOSS?

I'M NOT THINKING. I'M JUST WATCHING.



HE'S COMING IN TOO HIGH, BOSS. THE SPRAYS SPREADING TOO THIN.

SIGNAL HIM TO TRY IT LOWER.

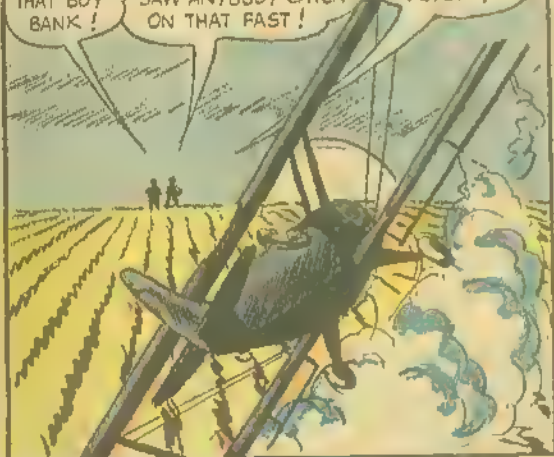


A FEW PASSES LATER—

WOW! WATCH THAT BOY BANK!

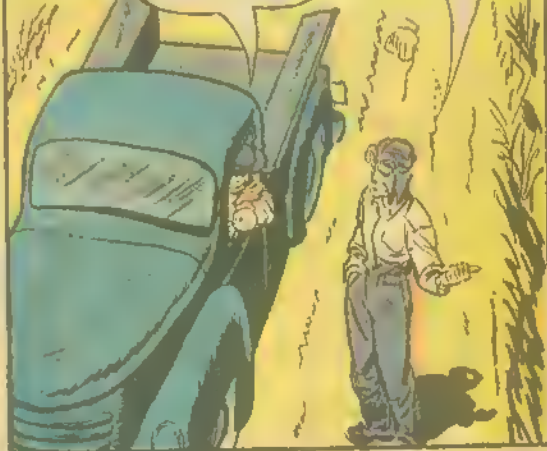
FIRST TIME I EVER SAW ANYBODY CATCH ON THAT FAST!

HE'LL DO, CHARLIE. WE GOT OURSELVES ONE SWEET FLYER!



THAT WAS MORE THAN O.K. FOR A BEGINNER, SON. HOP INTO MY CAR. I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK TO THE HOTEL.

I HAVE MY OWN CAR, MR. GREEN.



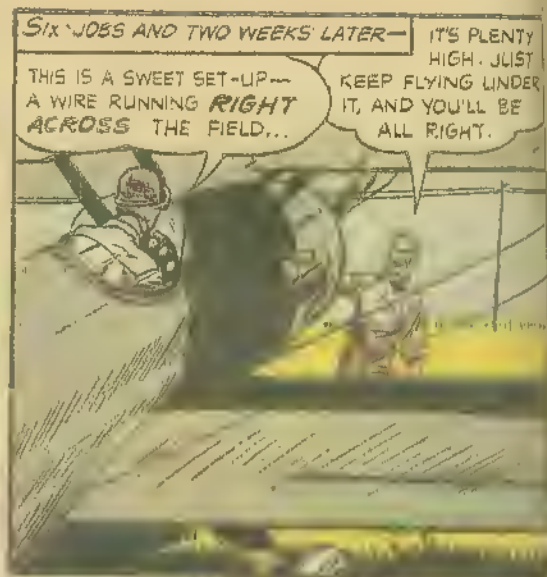
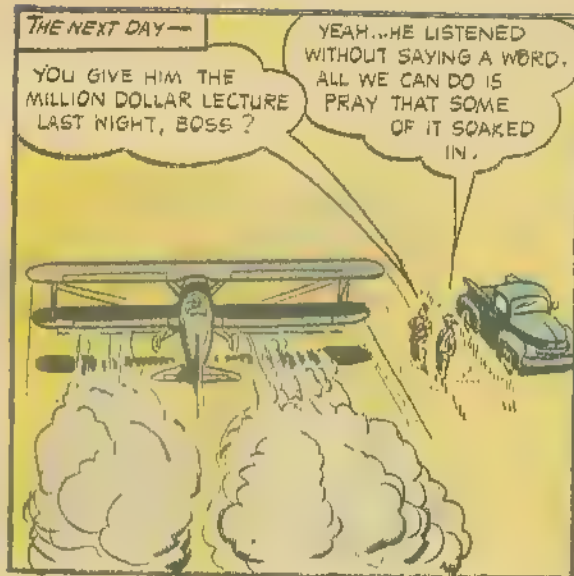
YOU'RE DRIVING BACK WITH ME! AND YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY... YOU FEEL GOOD NOW! YOU FEEL YOU HAVE THIS JOB BY THE TAIL! WELL, YOU'RE WRONG, SON! THERE'S A MILLION WAYS THIS JOB CAN KILL YOU THAT YOU'VE NEVER DREAMED ABOUT! AND YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN WHILE I TRY TO DRUM SOME OF THEM INTO YOUR HEAD...



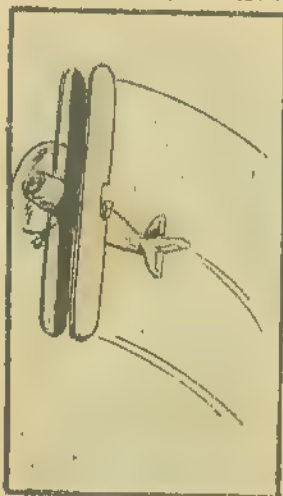
ART SHRUGS AND SILENTLY CLIMBS INTO HIS BOSS'S CAR...

THERE'S SPECIAL TRICKS, SON...WAYS OF FLYING INTO WIRES... DODGING THE SPRAY TANKS IF YOU CRASH... BANKING THE PLANE SO YOU DON'T STALL ...



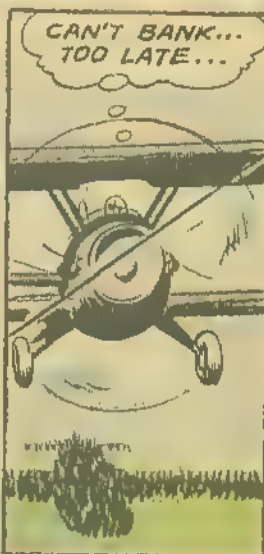
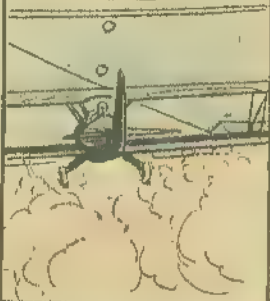


SO ART TAKES OFF, MAKES HIS FIRST PASS, BANKS...

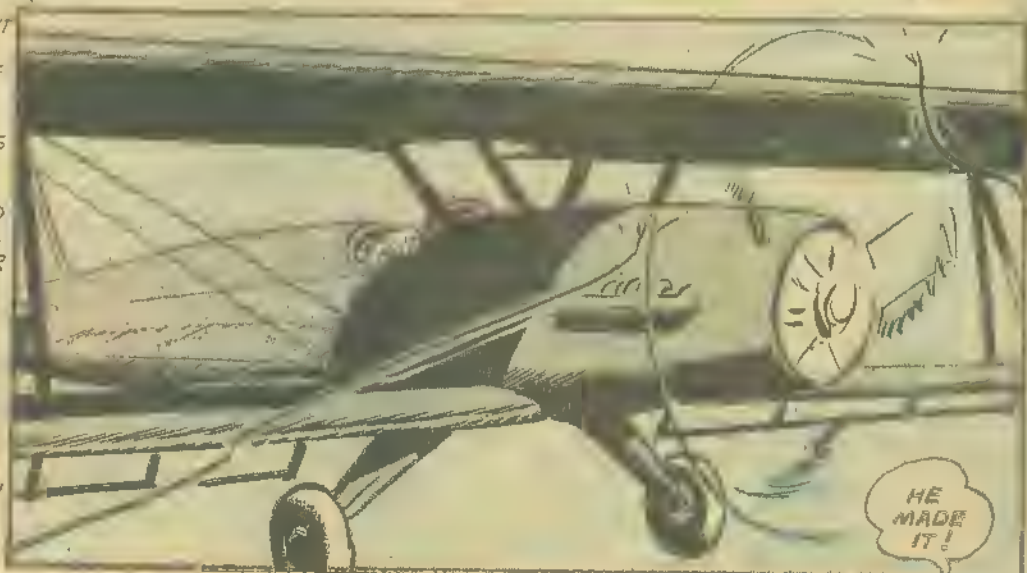


...AND BEGINS WHIZZING BACK—

HEY! THERE'S A SERVICE LINE SLANTING DOWN TO THAT SHACK! CHARLIE FORGOT TO WARN ME ABOUT **THAT!**



"YOU DON'T TRY TO MISS THE WIRE UNLESS MISSING'S A SURE THING," MORT HAD WARNED. "GET YOUR HEAD DOWN AND SLASH RIGHT INTO IT WITH YOUR PROPELLER."



CHARLIE TELLS ME YOU HAD A NARROW SQUEAK YESTERDAY, SON. YOU CAME THROUGH FINE, HE SAYS... THINK YOU'RE READY TO GRADUATE FROM SPRAYING TO DUSTING ON THE NEXT JOB?

ANYTHING YOU SAY.



IT'S NOT ANYTHING I SAY! DUSTING IS NOT TIDDLY-WINKS... IT'S TWICE AS DANGEROUS AS SPRAYING! THERE'LL BE NO FLAG MAN OUT... THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO BANK EXTRA SHARP SO YOU CAN GET BACK IN TIME TO USE YOUR OWN DUST SWATHE AS A GUIDE ON THE NEXT PASS... AND EXTRA SHARP BANKS WITH HEAVY LOADS MEANS STALLS AND CRASHES!!



I'M SICK OF YOUR CLUCKING OVER ME LIKE AN OLD HEN! AREN'T YOU USED TO HAVING MEN WORKING FOR YOU... OR HAVE THEY ALL BEEN BOYS UP TO NOW? I'LL BE READY TO FLY IN THE MORNING... NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!



IN THE MORNING...

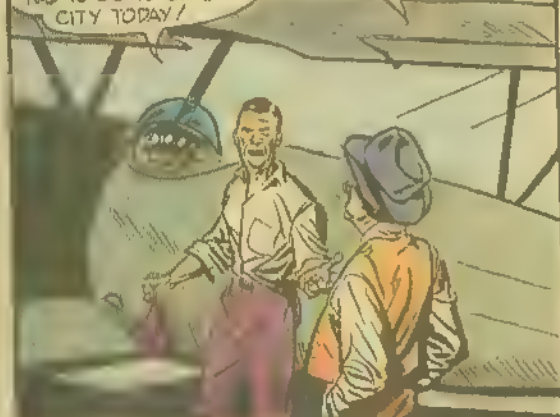
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, MORT? I THOUGHT YOU HAD TO GO TO SIOUX CITY TODAY!

SIOUX CITY'LL WAIT. I WANT TO BE ON HAND FOR...

YOU MR. GREEN?

SOMETIMES I WISH I WASN'T... BUT THAT'S ME ALRIGHT. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'M JACK WENTWORTH. AIR CORPS. I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOUR OUTFIT. MIND IF I WATCH YOUR DAREDEVILS GO THROUGH THEIR PAGES?



O.K. BY ME. MAKE YOURSELF...

ART BARTELL! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

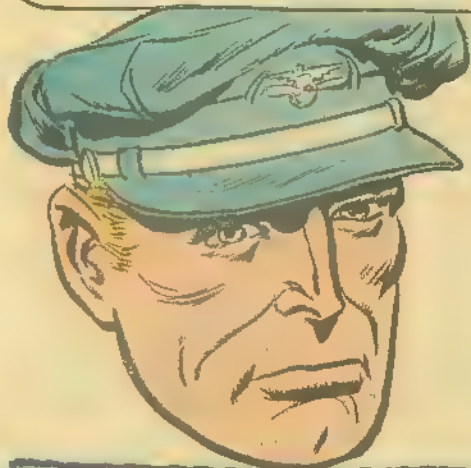
HELLO, JACK... ER... SEE YOU LATER, HAVE TO RUSH.

STALL, ART! DON'T LET HIM TAKE-OFF TILL AFTER I'VE TALKED TO THE COLONEL!



MORT BEGINS FIRING QUESTIONS AT THE COLONEL!

YES, I KNOW ART BARTELL. ART WAS IN MY TRAINING SQUADRON DURING THE WAR. WE WERE STATIONED IN FLORIDA. ART AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER MAX...



"ART WAS ALWAYS EASY-GOING, RELAXER. ONLY ONE TIME I EVER SAW HIM LOSE HIS HEAD..."

I DID IT, ART! I PUT IN FOR OVERSEAS DUTY!

I SHOULD SLUG YOU... YOU RIBBON-CRAZY LITTLE PUNK! WE'RE DOING A JOB HERE. THE AIR CORPS NEEDS INSTRUCTORS AS MUCH AS IT DOES COMBAT PILOTS! WHAT'D YOU HAVE TO STICK YOUR NECK OUT FOR?

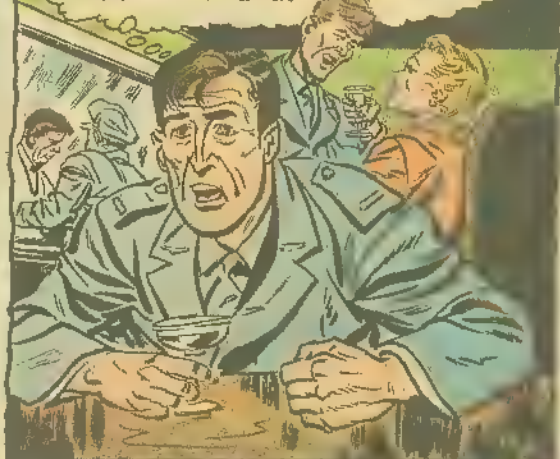


"MAX'S ORDERS CAME THROUGH... HE WENT OVERSEAS. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A FIGHTER SQUADRON, HE WENT DOWN ON HIS ELEVENTH MISSION..."



"WHEN ART HEARD, IT HIT HIM HARD..."

MY KID BROTHER... (SO...) I LET HIM GO... ALL BY HIMSELF...



THE WAR ENDED, AND ART DROPPED OUT OF THE PICTURE. TILL FIVE MINUTES AGO, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM...

SO THAT'S WHY HE WANTED THE JOB SO BAD!

ART! GET OUTTA THAT PLANE!!



YOU CRAZY FOOL! IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW... YOU'RE HERE TRYING TO PAY FOR YOUR KID BROTHER'S DEATH! EVERYTIME YOU GO UP YOU HOPE YOU'LL CRASH!

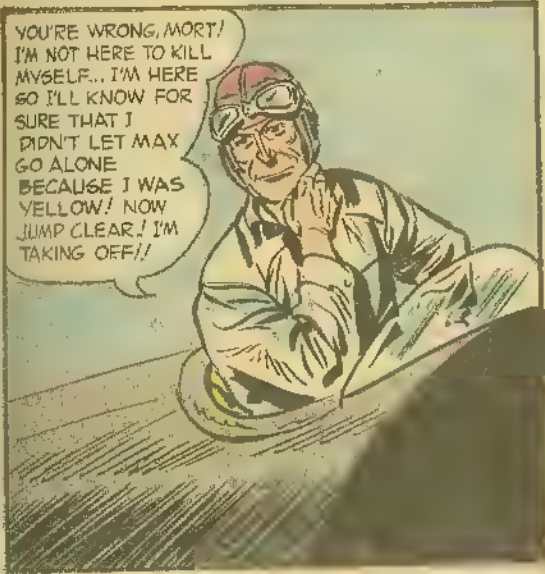


YOU'RE STILL ALIVE ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE A NATURAL AT THE CONTROLS, LIKE A CHAMPION SWIMMER TRYING TO DROWN HIMSELF... HE KEEPS COMING UP! BUT EVERYTIME YOU FLY, THAT COCKPIT'S CROWDED! DEATH IS IN THERE WITH YOU, WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE THE FIRST MISTAKE... CLIMB DOWN, ART!

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO UP AGAIN!



YOU'RE WRONG, MORT!
I'M NOT HERE TO KILL
MYSELF... I'M HERE
SO I'LL KNOW FOR
SURE THAT I
DIDN'T LET MAX
GO ALONE
BECAUSE I WAS
YELLOW! NOW
JUMP CLEAR! I'M
TAKING OFF!!



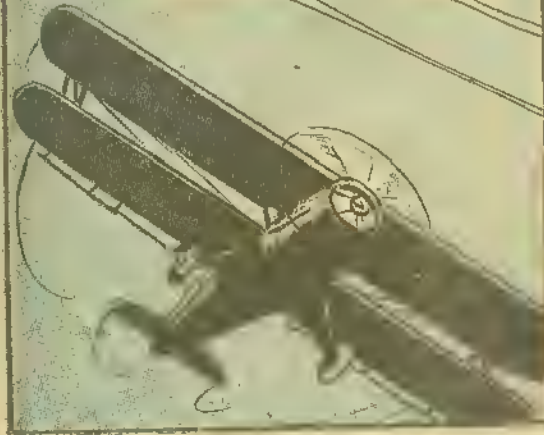
WATCH THE
PROP WASH!

THE FOOL... HE'LL
KILL HIMSELF!



I SAW ART BARTELL
DO A LOT OF FLYING
... BUT NEVER ANY-
THING LIKE THIS!

I'M NOT FOOLED BY
WHAT HE SAID.
THE BOY WANTS
TO DIE...



BUT SUDDENLY...

THE ENGINE'S
STALLING!

DID IT STALL... OR
DID HE SWITCH IT
OFF?



HE'S COMING DOWN...
HE'S HEADED FOR
THAT DITCH!

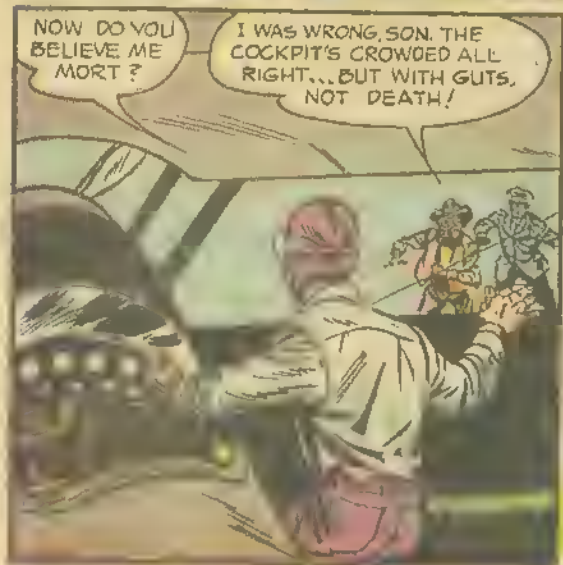
HE'LL CRASH
FOR SURE!



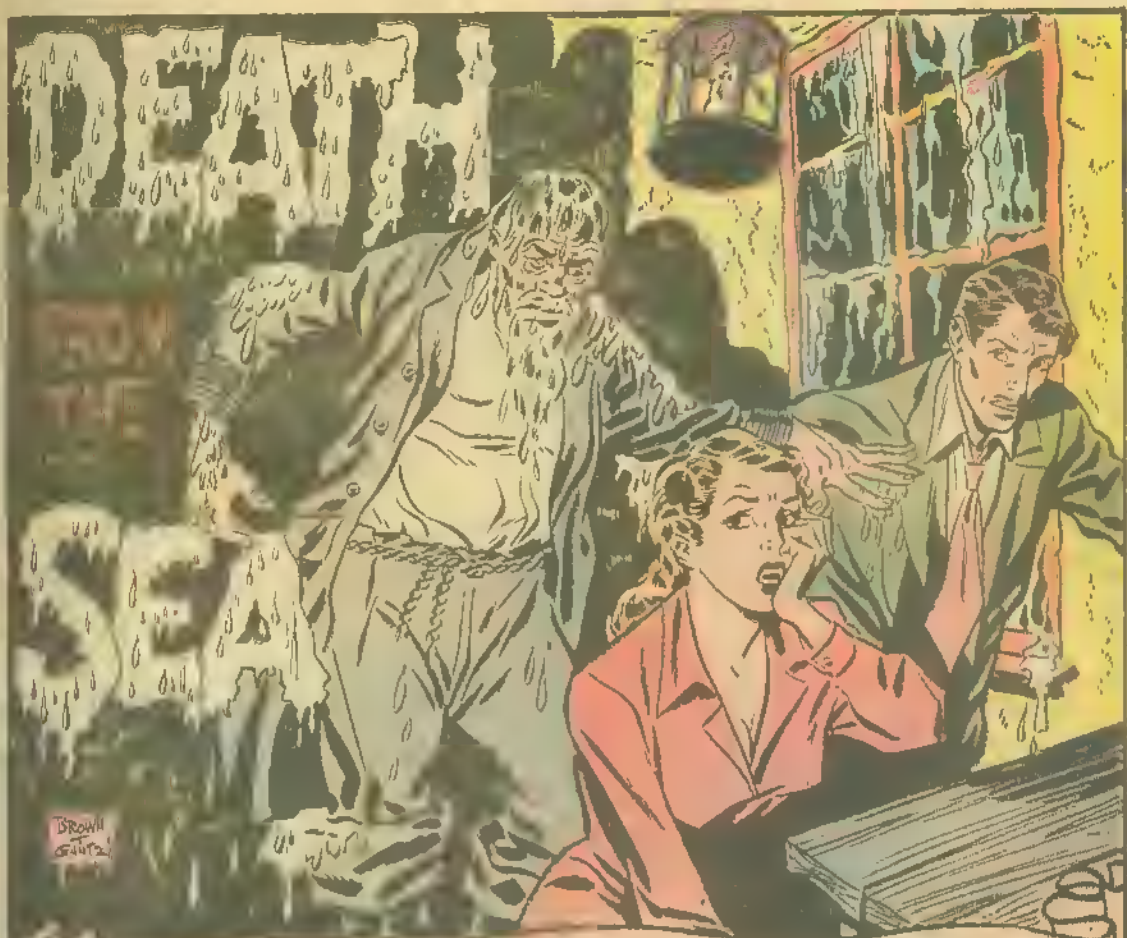


THE PLANE'S WHEELS HIT THE NEAR SIDE OF
THE DITCH HARD!

AND THE BOUNCE CARRIES IT SAFELY ACROSS!!



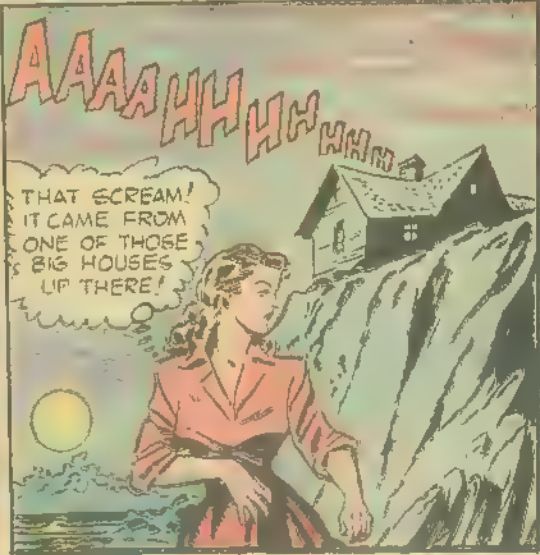
THE
END



AS A REPORTER FOR A BIG CITY DAILY, I'VE SEEN MANY THINGS. BUT IT TOOK A TINY FISHING VILLAGE TO GIVE ME A STORY I STILL FIND HARD TO BELIEVE... THE STORY OF THE MARY B., THE MYSTERIOUS DROWNINGS... AND A GHOST WHO BROUGHT...

DEATH from the SEA!

MY NAME IS LINDA CAIN, AND THIS IS MY STORY. IT BEGAN SIMPLY ENOUGH. I WAS SPENDING A QUIET VACATION IN THE LITTLE COASTAL TOWN OF ROCKYLAND. ONE NIGHT, AS I WAS STROLLING ALONG THE TINY BEACH...



AS I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH THE CROWD OF TOWNSPEOPLE IN THE FIRST BIG HOUSE....

HE'S DEAD...AND APPARENTLY OF DROWNING!

SO ELLIOT CRAVEN'S GONE ... SAME WAY AS HIS RELATIVES BEFORE HIM!

THAT MAKES KIM CRAVEN, THE LAST OF THE FAMILY.

DOCTOR, DO YOU MEAN THAT A PERSON CAN DIE OF DROWNING WHILE DRINKING WATER?

WELL, HE COULD HAVE HAD A CHOKING FIT, SWALLOWED TOO MUCH....IT'S POSSIBLE BUT...

HEH HEH! POSSIBLE, BUT NOT PROBABLE!

ALL OF YE KNOW HOW ELLIOT CRAVEN DIED...IT'S CAP'N BILLY'S REVENGE! KIM IS NEXT! HEH HEH HEH!

OLD MARY! I KNEW SHE WOULD BE CLOSE BY!

DOCTOR, WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

THE DOCTOR TOLD ME JUST ENOUGH OF THE STORY TO AROUSE MY CURIOSITY...

JUST SILLY SUPERSTITION, YOU SEE, THE ANCESTORS OF THE CRAVENS WERE SHIPWRECKERS, AND THE LOCAL FOLKS THINK THERE'S A CURSE ON THE FAMILY.

AND THIS KIM CRAVEN LIVES NEXT DOOR DOESN'T HE?

WHA! THERE OUGHT TO BE A SUNDAY FEATURE IN THIS!

AND MOMENTS LATER I WAS CALLING ON KIM CRAVEN....

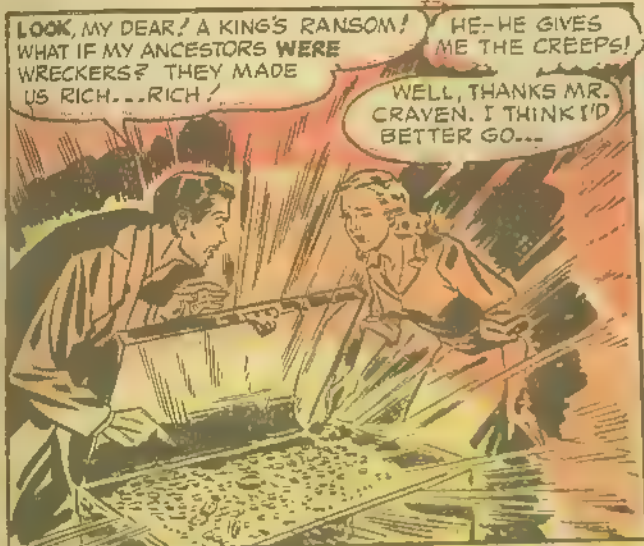
MR. CRAVEN? I'M LINDA CAIN, A REPORTER. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT...

THE CURSE OF THE CRAVENS? OF COURSE MY DEAR... COME IN! I SELDOM HAVE SUCH LOVELY VISITORS!

HE WAS TALKATIVE AND CHARMING, BUT...

BUT SOMEHOW THERE'S A TOUCH OF EVIL ABOUT HIM!

...IT'S ALL TRUE, EXCEPT FOR THE GHOST. I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS. HERE'S THE REAL REASON FOR THEIR STORIES, THEIR JEALOUSY... HERE IN THIS CHEST!



LOOK, MY DEAR! A KING'S RANSOM!
WHAT IF MY ANCESTORS WERE
WRECKERS? THEY MADE
US RICH...RICH!

HE-HE GIVES
ME THE CREEPS!

WELL, THANKS MR.
CRAVEN. I THINK I'D
BETTER GO...



AND IT'S MINE, NOW THAT ELLIOT'S GONE
--ALL MINE. DO YOU HEAR? ALL I NEED
IS SOMEONE TO SHARE
IT WITH!

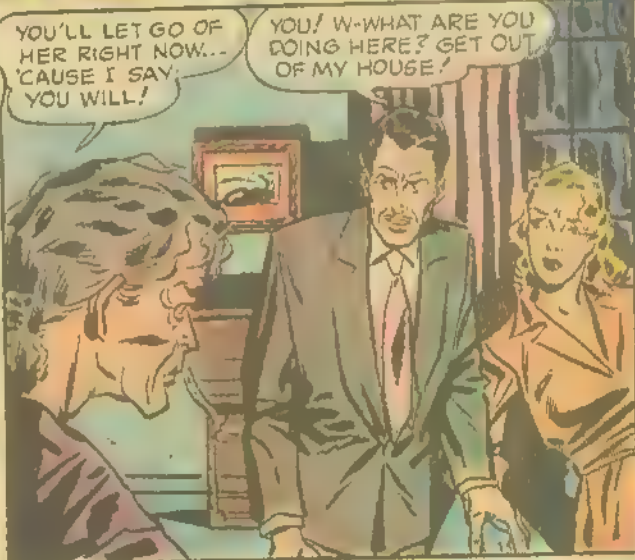
PLEASE,
MR. CRAVEN!



LET GO OF
ME, YOU
CRAZY...

AND YOU ARE THE ONE
I'LL SHARE IT WITH,
LINDA! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL,
EXQUISITE! I CAN'T LET
YOU GO! I'LL NEVER LET
YOU GO!

HEH! HEH! OH
YES YOU WILL
KIM CRAVEN...



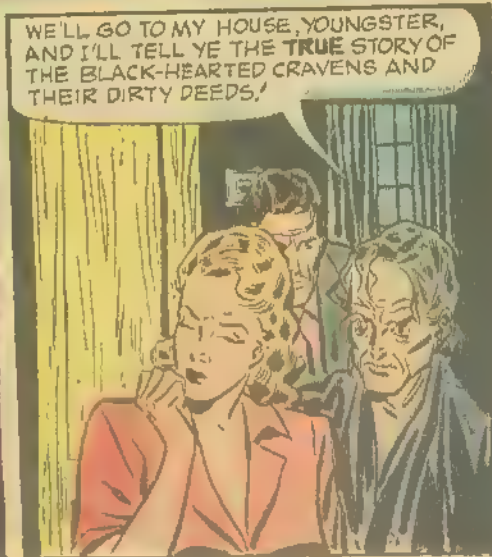
YOU'LL LET GO OF
HER RIGHT NOW...
'CAUSE I SAY
YOU WILL!

YOU! W-WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE? GET OUT
OF MY HOUSE!



I'LL GO, KIM... BUT I'M TAKIN'
HER WITH ME! AND I'M WARNIN'
YE... LEAVE THIS YOUNG
LADY ALONE! COME MY
DEAR!

YOU-YOU
OLD WITCH!



WE'LL GO TO MY HOUSE, YOUNGSTER,
AND I'LL TELL YE THE **TRUE** STORY OF
THE BLACK-HEARTED CRAVENS AND
THEIR DIRTY DEEDS!

AND SO I FOUND MYSELF IN THE OLD WOMAN'S TINY COTTAGE BY THE SEA, HEARING THE TALE OF THE CRAVENS, THE MARY B... AND CAP'N BILLY BALMORAN.

IT WAS MANY YEARS AGO THAT CAP'N BILLY BALMORAN SAILED THESE WATERS, MY GIRL. AN' HE WAS RESPECTED BY EVERYMAN, AN' LOVED BY HIS CREW... HIM AND HIS PRETTY LITTLE SCHOONER, THE MARY B. ...



A FINE BIG BUCK OF A MAN WAS BILLY BALMORAN... AND NO FOOL, HE KNEW THE SCURVY, MURDERIN' TRICKS OF THE SHIP-WRECKIN' CRAVENS.



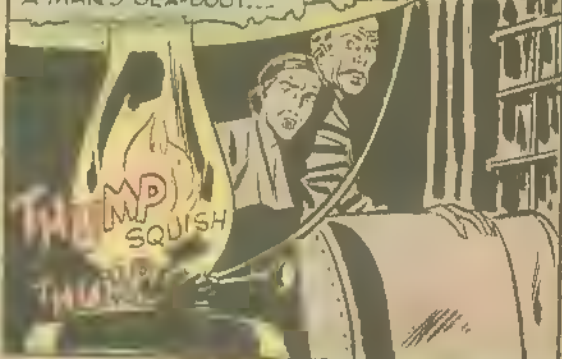
BUT ONE NIGHT WHEN CAP'N BILLY WAS CATCHIN' FORTY WINKS, HIS MATE FELL FOR THE FALSE SIGNALS OF THE CRAVENS... AND THE POOR MARY B, PILED UP ON DEAD MAN'S ROCKS.



SHE WAS LOST WITH ALL HANDS, AND A SAD PROCESSION IT WAS THAT NIGHT WHEN THE BODIES FLOATED ASHORE AND THE TOWNFOLK CARRIED 'EM UP THE BLUFFS. THEY NEVER DID FIND THE BODY OF BILLY BALMORAN THOUGH...

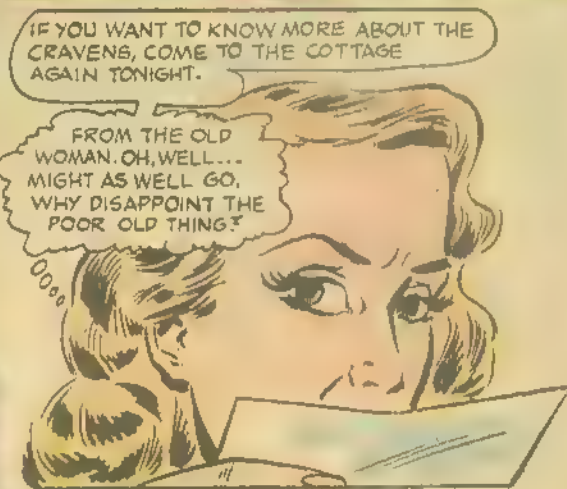
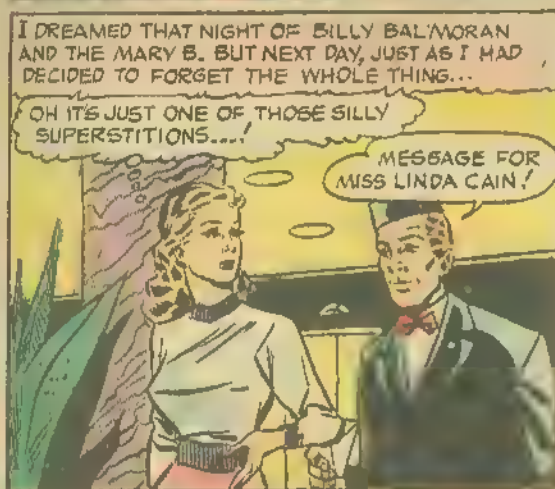
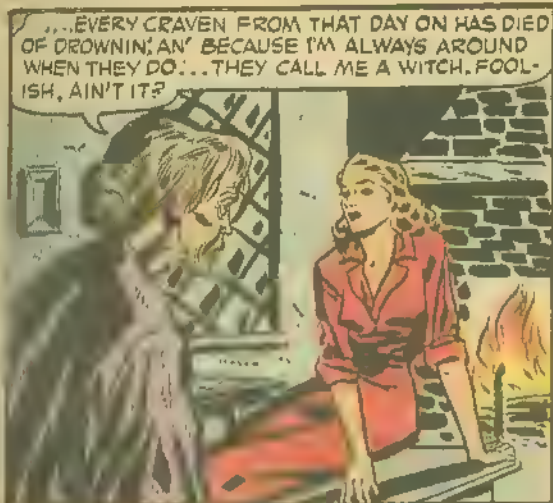


BUT THEY SAY THAT BEFORE DAWN THE NEXT DAY, THERE WAS HEARD THE THUD OF HEAVY FOOTSTEPS COMING UP FROM THE SEA, AND THE SOUND OF WATER A-SQUISHIN' OUT OF A MAN'S SEA-BOOT...



SOME CLAIM IT WAS THE GHOST OF BILLY BALMORAN, COME BACK FROM THE SEA SEEKIN' REVENGE AGAINST THE CRAVENS! AT ANY RATE, ONE THING IS CERTAIN...





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If bought in the store, the Jetex #50 engine alone would cost \$1.95; the Jetex F-102 \$2.95, a total cost of \$2.90.

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\$1.98

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As of this printing, the U.S. Air Force F-102 does not have a name, because this supersonic airplane is brand new and, in the category of a military jet, the Jetex F-102 is the first model of its kind.

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17 East 45 St. New York 17, N.Y.
Please send me microscopes at \$1.00 each, 16 for \$5.00. I enclose cash, check or money order. SORRY, NO C.O.D.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____





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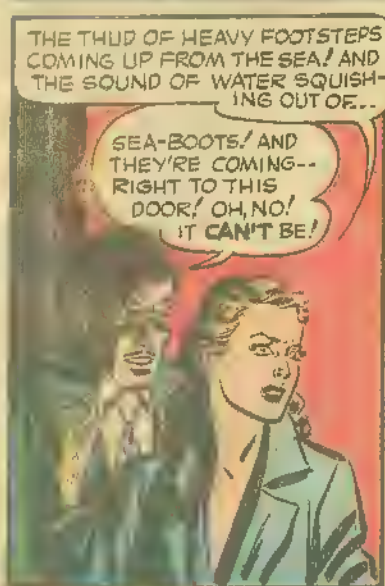
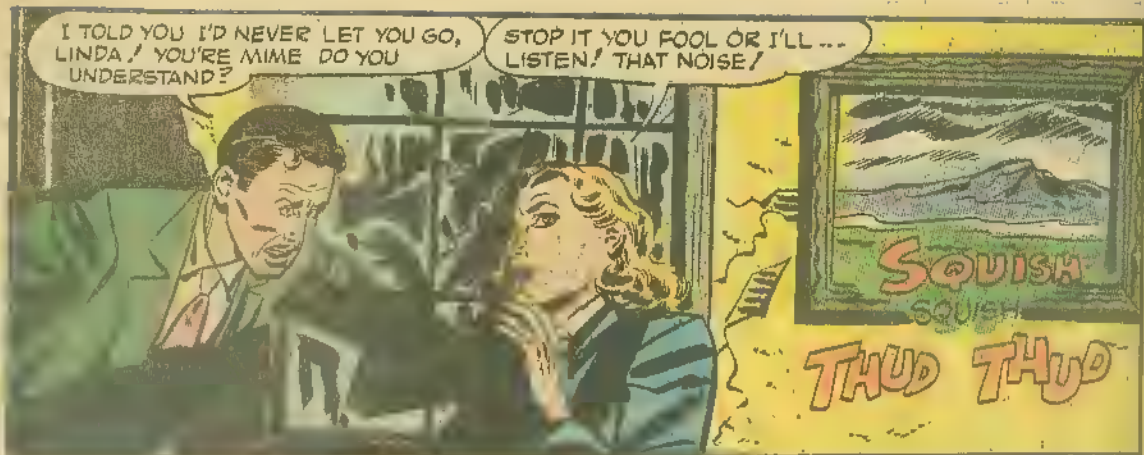
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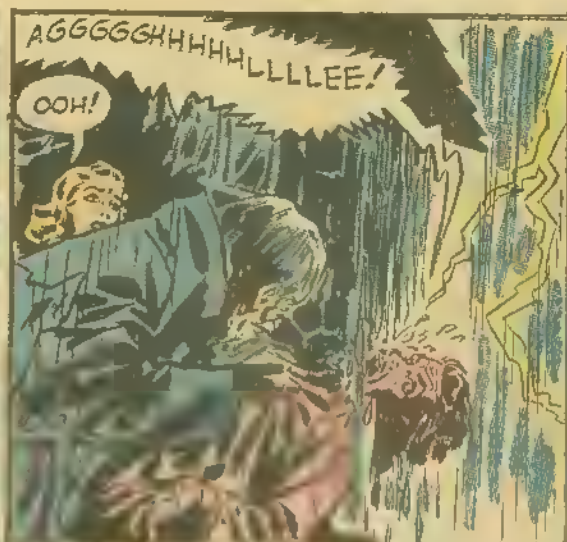
☐ Send name of my Pan-American dealer.

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THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER. BUT I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS JUST IN TIME TO HEAR...

BUT THAT ISN'T HOW IT HAPPENED DOCTOR! WHAT ABOUT CAPTAIN BILLY AND...

HEH HEH! THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED, ALRIGHT! HE WAS STRUGGLING WITH THE GIRL! AN' HE FELL THROUGH THE WINDOW! SERVED HIM RIGHT, TOO!

HUSH. YOU'VE HAD A NASTY SHOCK, PROBABLY DREAMED ABOUT...



DOCTOR. WHO IS THAT OLD WOMAN?

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? WHY THAT'S OLD MARY BALMORAN... THEY CALL HER OLD MARY B. SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THAT SEA CAPTAIN THE LEGEND IS ABOUT --- BILLY BALMORAN!

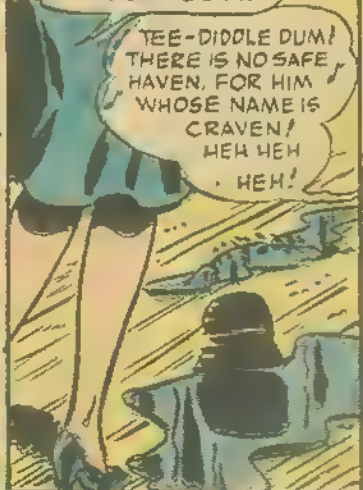


SHE...? OH, I'M SOMIXED UP! I CAN'T BELIEVE... DOCTOR! LOOK AT THE FLOOR!



SEAWEED! AND THE PRINT OF A SEA-BOOT!

TEE-DIDDLE DUM! THERE IS NO SAFE HAVEN, FOR HIM WHOSE NAME IS CRAVEN! HEH HEH HEH!



WELL, THAT'S MY STORY! WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE GHOST OF BILLY BALMORAN? AS FOR ME, I'M GOING BACK TO WRITING ABOUT AXE KILLINGS AND KNIFINGS... YOU KNOW, THE SIMPLE KINDS OF MURDER!



SPIKE AND BAT

in

Week-End

in PARIS!

WHEN BRIGADIER GENERAL NELSON, USMC, IS SUMMONED FROM THE KOREAN FRONT TO A CONFERENCE OF THE BRASS AT SHAPE HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, SPIKE AND BAT ARE ASSIGNED AS MEMBERS OF HIS ENTOURAGE. AND WHILE THE GOOD GENERAL IS EMBROILED IN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL WARFARE, THE TWO DEVIL-MAY-CARE MARINES EMBARK ON AN UPROARIOUS, RIOTOUS WEEK-END IN PARIS!



THIS GAY PAREE IS FOR ME, CHUM! SAY, LOOK AT ALL THE CHARACTERS IN THE JOINT... THEY MUST BE REAL BOHEMIANS!

WHO WANTS TO LOOK AT BOHEMIANS... TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CHARACTER UNDER THE SPOT-LIGHT!

A RESTAURANT IN THE LATIN QUARTER OF PARIS...

CREEPIN' GISMOS! THESE FRENCHIES SURE WRITE FUNNY. I CAN'T READ A THING ON THIS MENU. HOW DO YA GO ABOUT GETTIN' SOMETHIN' TO EAT?

BEATS ME! NOUSE SHOWIN' OUR IGNORANCE THOUGH, LET'S TAKE A CHANCE AND POINT OUT SOMETHIN' THAT LOOKS GOOD!

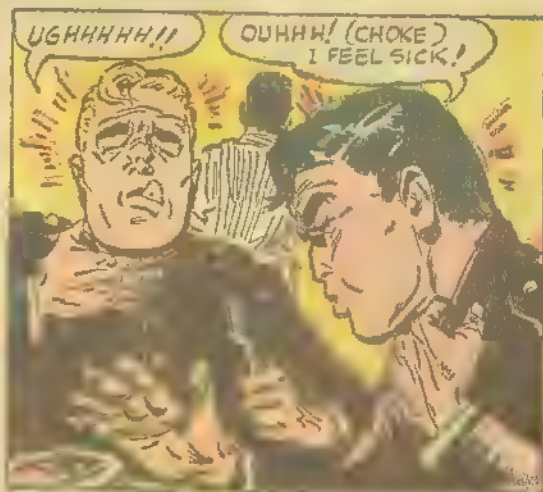
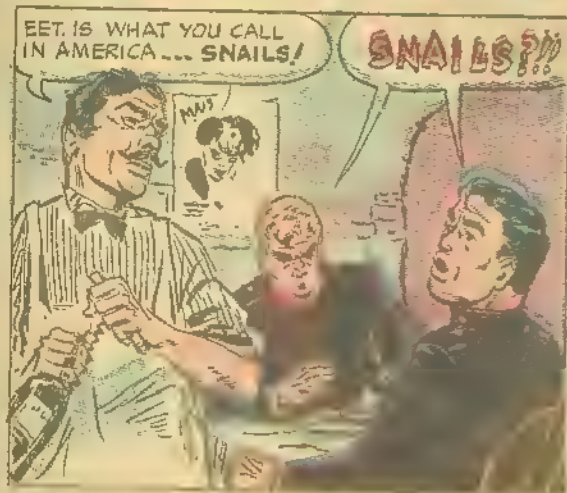
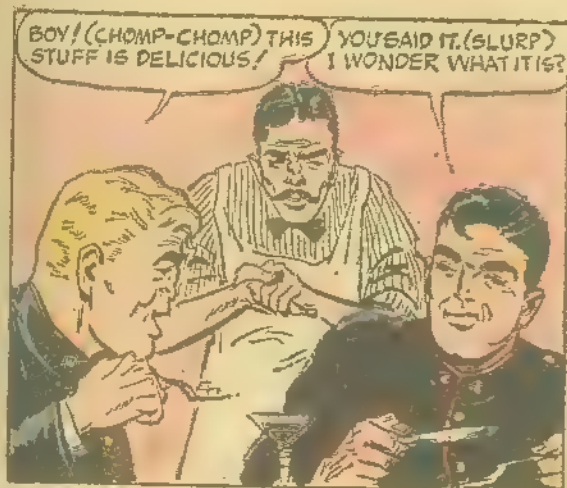


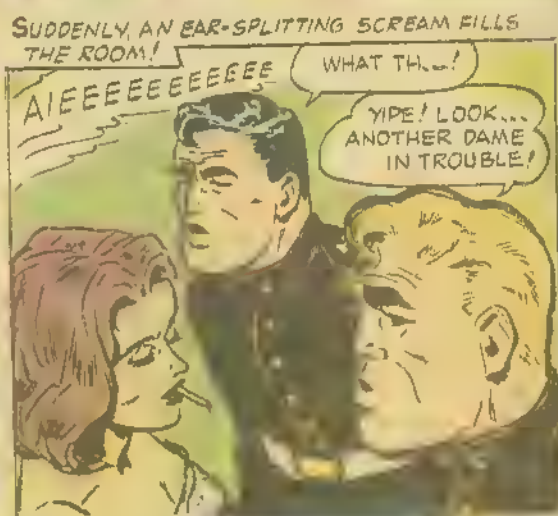
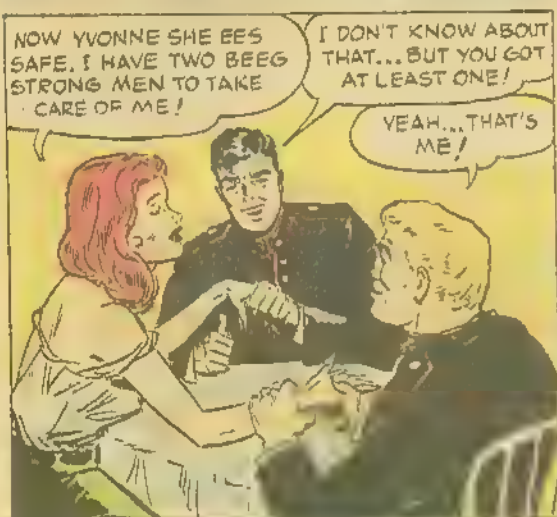
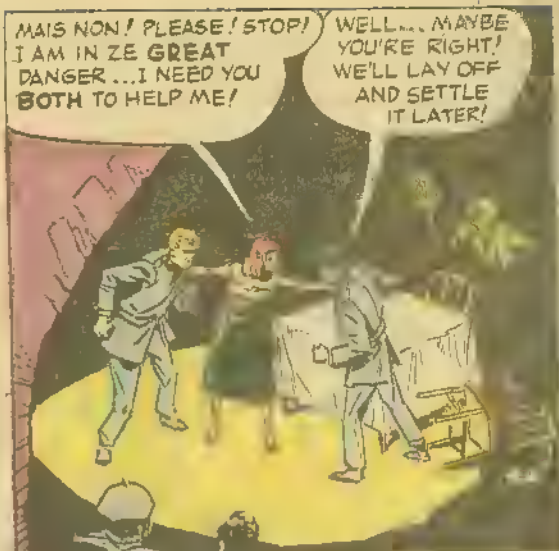
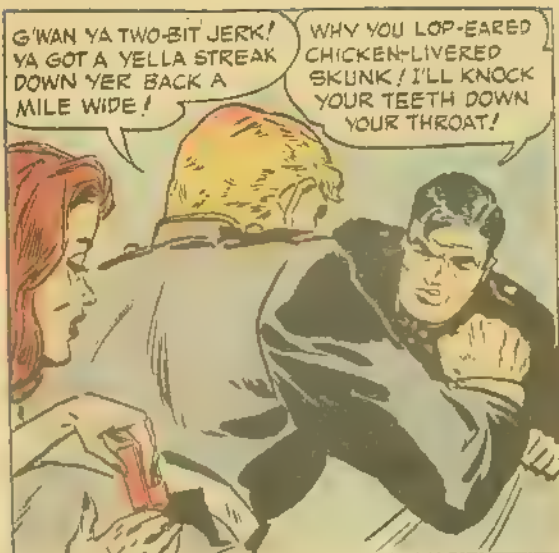
HEY, WAITER... GIMME SOME OF THAT!

ME TOO!

OUI!



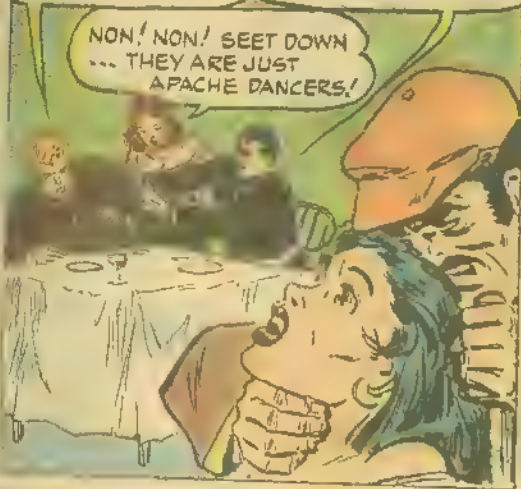




LEMME GO! LOOK... HE'S CHOKIN' HER!

TAKE IT EASY! SHE'S HIS GIRL, AIN'T SHE?

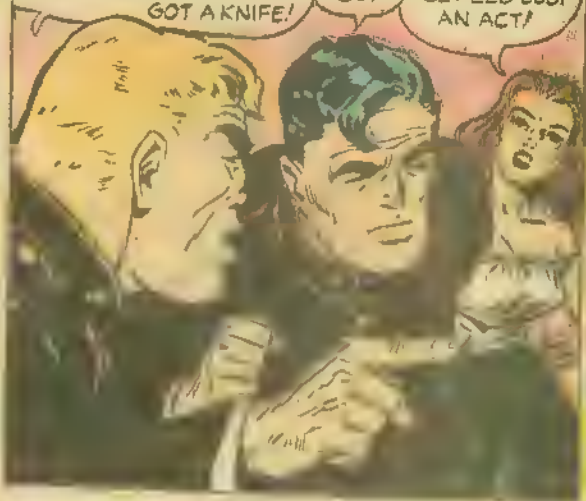
NON! NON! SEET DOWN ... THEY ARE JUST APACHE DANCERS!



I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY ARE! LOOK... THAT GUY'S GOT A KNIFE!

LET'S GO!

NON! PLEASE! SEET EES JUST AN ACT!



YA SNEAKY RAT! I'LL BREAK YA JAW!



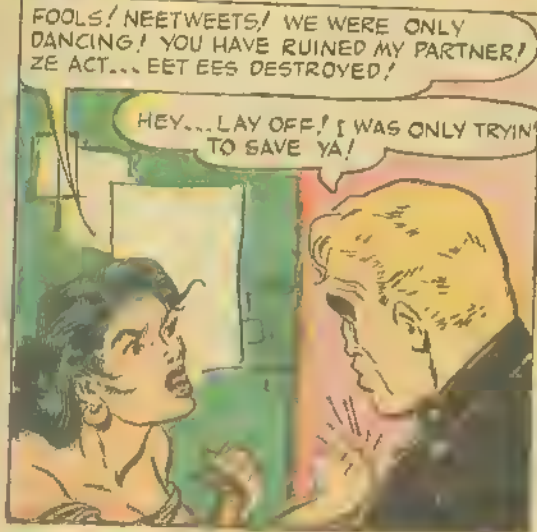
THERE, THERE NOW, HONEY ... YA DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED NO MORE!

SURE, KID... THAT GUY WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK FOR A MONTH!



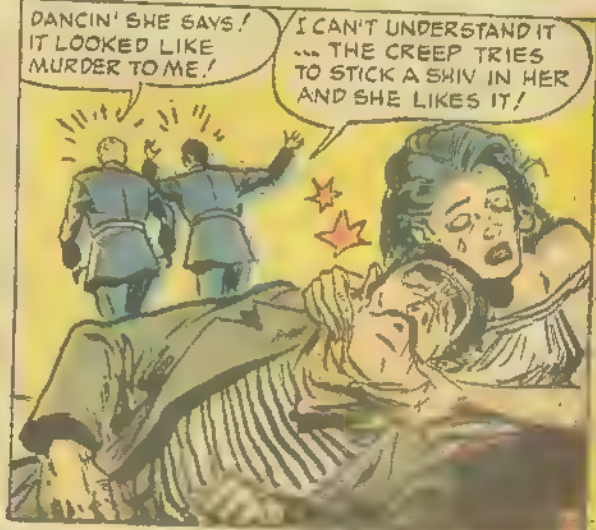
FOOLS! NEETWEETS! WE WERE ONLY DANCING! YOU HAVE RUINED MY PARTNER! ZE ACT... SEET EES DESTROYED!

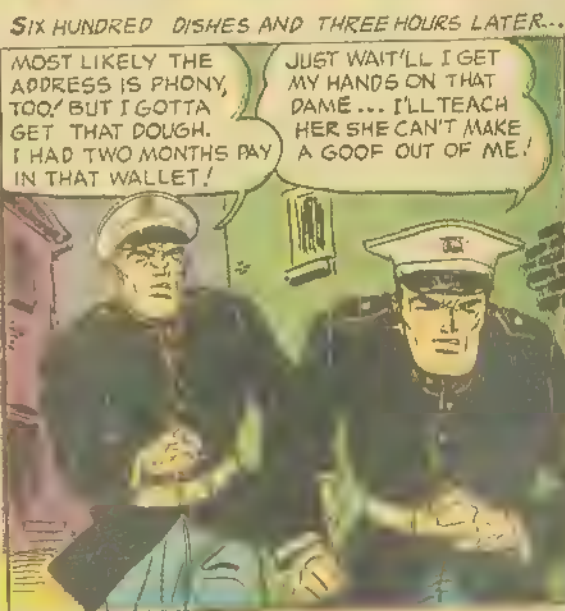
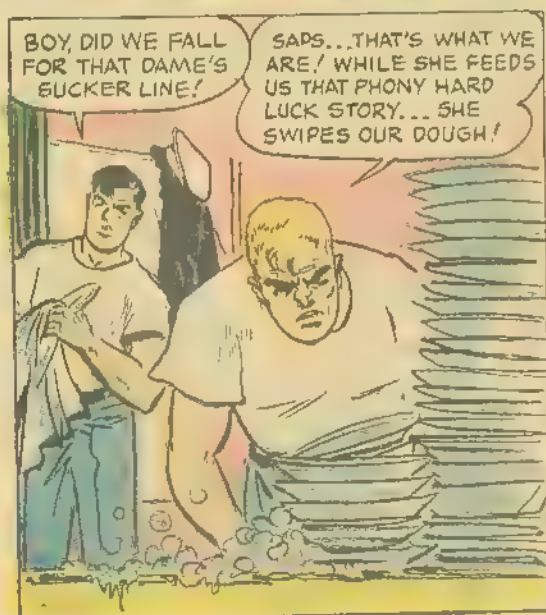
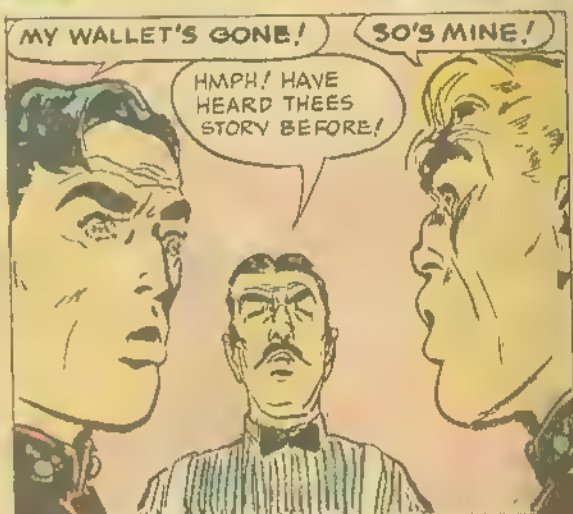
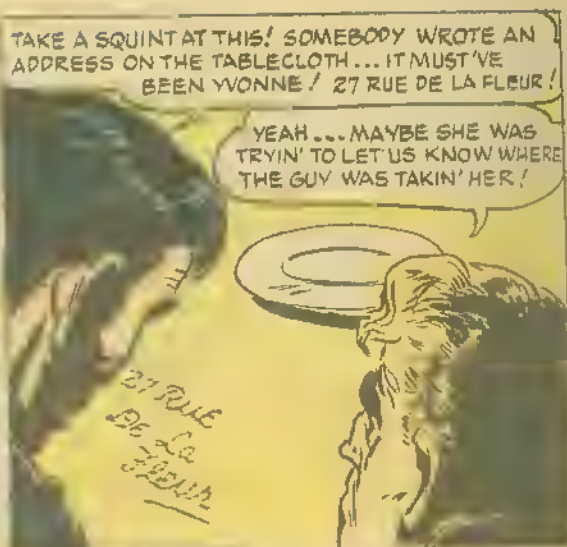
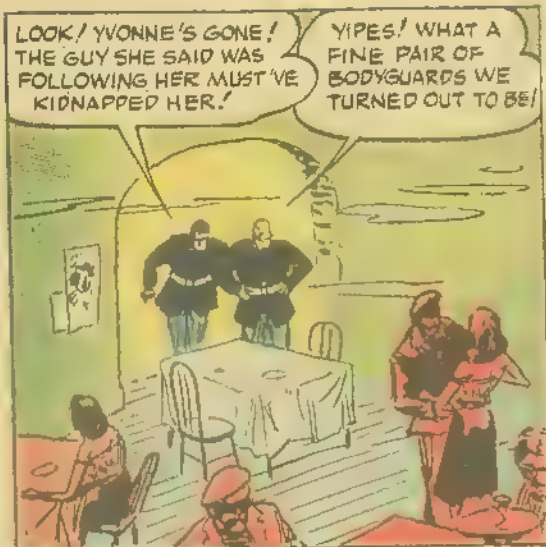
HEY... LAY OFF! I WAS ONLY TRYIN' TO SAVE YA!



DANCIN' SHE SAYS! IT LOOKED LIKE MURDER TO ME!

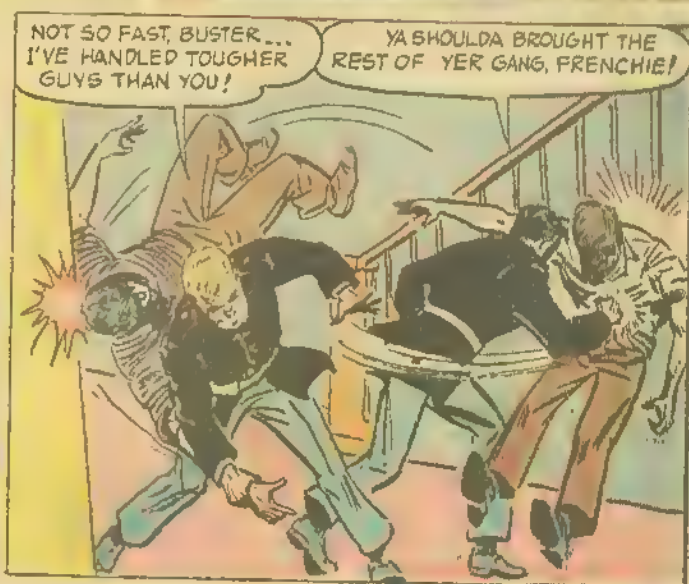
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT ... THE CREEP TRIES TO STICK A SHIV IN HER AND SHE LIKES IT!







SUDDENLY...



ENTREZ, PEEGS! COMRADE
ARMAND WEEL BE TRES
HAPPY TO SEE YOU!

COMRADE, EN?
LOOKS LIKE WE
FOUND A NEST OF
COMMIES!

WELCOME, MES AMIS! COME
EEN AND GET ACQUAINTED.

YVONNE!

WHAT'S THE IDEA,
BABE? YOU GOT
OUR DOUGH... AINT
YOU SATISFIED?

MA FOI! YOU DO ZE MADemoisELLE AN
INJUSTICE! SHE IS A SECREET AGENT FOR ZE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT. SHE HAS IN HER
POSSESSION A PACKAGE OF MICROFILM OUT-
LINING ZE INVASION PLANS OF... A CERTAIN
POWER. BUT NOW, WE HAVE SEARCHED HER
AND CANNOT FIND ZE FILM!

I HAVE BEEN PROMISED A FABULOUS SUM OF
MONEY FOR ZE RETURN OF THEES FILMS.
I HAVE ZE SUSPICION ZAT SHE GAVE ZE FILMS
TO YOU! SEARCH THEM, GASTON!

AW, YER OFF YA NUT...
SHE DIDN'T GIVE US ANYTHIN'!

AWA! HERE...
I HAVE FOUND
THEM, ARMAND!

EXCELLENT, COMRADE!
ORDER ZE PEEGS TO
SEET ON ZE FLOOR
WHILE WE EXAMINE
ZE FILMS!

WELL
I'LL
BE...!

HERE... I RETURN ZE WALLETS. PARDONNEZ!
MOI, I AM SORREE TOGET YOU INTO THEES...
BUT I WAS DESPERATE. I WROTE DOWN ZE
ADDRESS... AND TOOK YOUR WALLETS TO
MAKE CERTAIN YOU WOULD FOLLOW ME!

FORGET IT, HONEY... YOU
WERE ONLY DOING
YOUR DUTY!

YES, THEES ARE ZE CORRECT FILMS, ALL RIGHT!
NOW... I REGRET... WE MUST DO AWAY WITH
ZE THREE OF YOU. WE CANNOT HAVE ANY
WITNESSES TO THEES AFFAIR!

OH-OH... I KNEW IT WAS
COHIN'!



OF COURSE, SHOTS WOULD ATTRACT ZE
GENDARMES, SO... WE WEEEL DESTROY YOU
SILENTLY... BY ZE GARROTE-A SHORT PIECE
OF ROPE AROUND ZE NECK AND...
POOF! YOU ARE DEAD!



COMRADES, I HAVE SEEN SOMETHING VERY
INTERESTING IN ZE AMERICAN MOVIES.
APPARENTLY YANKEES FIGHTING MEN
PREFER TO DIE WITH THEIR BOOT ON, SO
WE WEEEL EXECUTE THEM IN DISGRACE...
ZE CROWNING IGNOMINY!



HOLD UP YOUR FEET
ZO I CAN REMOVE
ZE SHOES!

OKAY,
BUB!

OWSNAY
OURAY
ANCECHAY!



GIVE IT TO 'EM
SPIKE!

YAHOO! THESE JERKS
WERE JUST PLEADIN'
FOR IT!

AAAANCHNN!

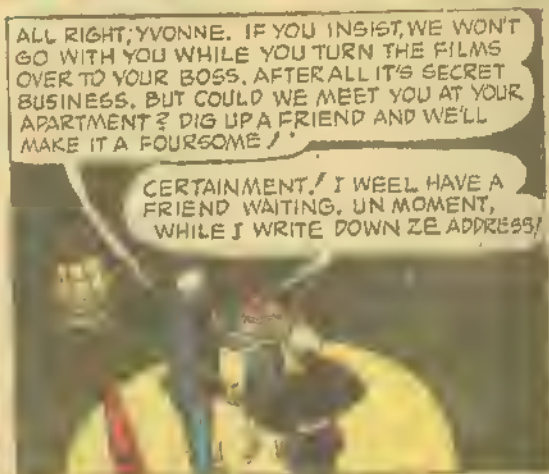
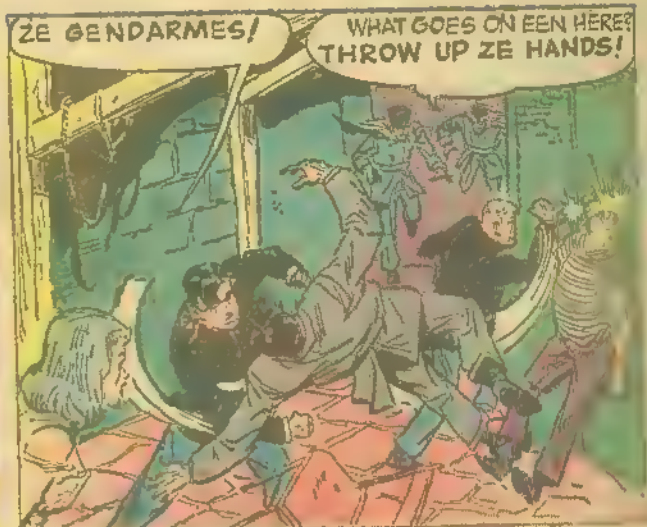


I'M GIVIN' THIS GUY MY FAMOUS DOUBLE-
REVERSE BOLO PUNCH. I BET HE WON'T
BE ABLE TO BREATHE FOR THREE MONTHS!

DUCK, SPIKE! THEY'RE
OPENING UP WITH THE
ARTILLERY!

BAM! BAM!
BAM!





THREE HOURS LATER...

WELL, HERE WE ARE YVONNE! NOW WE CAN START IN WHERE WE LEFT OFF... BUT WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?



PROSPECTOR PETE

PETE! YOU'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR GOLD FOR TWENTY SOME ODD YEARS! WHY DON'T YOU DO SOME **EASY** WORK FOR A CHANGE?

WHERE AM I GONNA FIND EASY WORK AROUND HERE?

THAT'S SIMPLE! THERE'S A MOVIE CREW IN TOWN! WHY DON'T YOU ASK THEM FOR A JOB?

WHEEE! WHAT A BREAK! THANKS, PAL!

SAY, FELLERS! HOW ABOUT GIVIN' ME ONE OF THEM THAR SOFT MOVIE JOBS?

WHY, OF COURSE! YOU'RE JUST THE TYPE!

WE'RE DOING A DESERT SCENE! START DIGGING FOR GOLD!!

ART
HELFANT

THE CROOKED DECK

HUNK BONNEY wet his thumb on his tongue and slowly fanned the cards in his hand. He looked at them briefly with cold, calculating eyes, then pushed a stack of chips to the center of the table.

He said, "I raise five hundred."

The next bidder was Dave Somyak. He mopped his face worriedly and cleared his throat. He looked at his cards again, wondering what to do. Then he decided.

"I'm droppin' out," he said. "Too steep for me."

That was just what Hunk Bonney had expected Somyak to say. He shouldn't have stayed in this long with only a pair of kings.

Directly across the table was Frank Ross. He shook his head and threw his cards down, surprising Bonney. Three sevens should have been enough to keep him in.

That left only Bob Scott, and Bonney knew that he was the only one of the three he would have to handle carefully. The others were easy marks, but Scott was shrewd, a man who played cards as if he meant business.

But Hunk Bonney knew that the pot was his. Gambling was for fools, and he was not a fool. He was smart enough to win without taking chances.

Bob Scott pushed out a stack of chips. "I'll see you," he said quietly. "An' it better be good."

Bonney smiled and spread his cards on the table. He had a flush in hearts, beating Scott's three aces.

"Sorry, boys," he said. "Seems like luck is ridin' my shoulders."

"Luck is right!" said Dave Somyak. "I've never seen anything like your streak!"

"Yeah," Frank Ross added. "This is our third night, an' I ain't won a pot yet."

"But I got a feelin' your luck might change real soon, Bonney," said Bob Scott. "Let's keep goin' an' see."

Hunk Bonney felt like laughing, but his face remained expressionless. They were

fools, he thought. Rich, powerful fools. If they were smart they would make their own luck, instead of leaving it to chance.

Bonney did not consider himself a gambler. Gamblers stacked the deck, dealt from the bottom, rang in hidden cards. Gamblers got caught, too—but he was too smart to get caught.

He used a marked deck to fleece other players, one with the daubs so cleverly hidden in the design of the cards he was sure that no one concentrating on the game would ever notice anything wrong. And he could read the daubs quickly and accurately.

Sometimes he would go a whole night without taking more than perhaps five pots. If the cards came right he made the others pay high stakes to see what he had; if not, he would drop out with only a few chips in the pot. It was a foolproof system, one that never failed.

Bonney put his hands up to his vest pockets, looking for cigars. The pockets were empty, but there were others in his coat, hanging on a chair against the wall.

He said, "Excuse me, gents, have to get a smoke."

He came back and watched as the cards were dealt. Somyak had a possible straight, Ross a pair of queens, and Scott had two eights. He thumbed his own hand. A pair of aces.

Scott counted off ten chips. "Open for a hundred," he said. "I feel lucky this time."

Bonney smiled. "Give you gents a chance to get your money back. Make it another five hundred."

They all stayed in, and Bonney watched the cards as they slipped across the table. Somyak missed his straight. Ross got another queen, and Scott drew a pair of kings to go with the eights.

Scott looked at his cards, then said, "Bet two hundred."

Bonney fanned his cards. "See you an' raise a thousand." He had pulled another buller and a pair of hooks, building his

hand to a perfect full house.

Somyak dropped out and Ross stayed in. But Bob Scott was not finished.

"I'll raise again," he said. "Fifteen hundred."

Hunk Bonney did not understand the boost. He had pegged Scott as being smooth, and somehow this wasn't right. A second raise on two pair did not make sense.

"I think you're bluffin'," he said. "I'll match an' double you."

Ross stayed in, but said, "Let's not make it cutthroat, boys!"

Bob Scott looked at Bonney. "You go along on that, or would you like to make it real interestin'?"

Bonney shrugged. "Play 'em the way you see 'em."

"I figured you'd see it that way," Scott said, and took his wallet from his pocket. "I'll up it ten thousand."

Bonney pulled out his own wallet. This was going to be a real killing, the best he'd ever made.

"I still think you're bluffin'," he said. "But I haven't got enough. I'll be shy five hundred."

Scott was not satisfied. "Sorry," he said, "but I ain't takin' any short bets. Put up or drop out!"

Bonney frowned darkly. "You mean," he demanded, "that my credit's not good?"

Scott nodded. "That's just what I mean." Then he added, "But I sort of like those fancy duds of yours. I'd say they're worth just about what the pot is shy."

Bonney grinned. "You've made yourself a bet, mister. If I lose, you take all."

"Includin' the hotel-room key in your coat over there."

"Everything," Bonney agreed.

Scott and Bonney eyed each other. Then Scott took the sixgun from his holster and put it on the table.

"Just to be sure," he said tightly.

"Wait a minute," Bonney objected. "You mean that if I win you'll start shootin'?"

Scott shook his head. "I don't shoot, except when I have to. Just don't start anything."

Bonney nodded, relieved. "All right. I call."

Scott ground out his cigar on the floor, then said slowly, "I got two pair of—"

"Not enough!" Bonney broke in, his heart leaping. "It doesn't beat my full house!" He started to rake in the chips. But then he froze. He was staring into Scott's Colt.

"Not so fast, pard," Scott said. "You didn't let me finish. I started to say I had two pair. Of kings."

Hunk Bonney felt something go out of him as Scott spread the four kings on the table. It wasn't possible. Something was wrong. Scott should have had eights with kings over. Two pair.

"You were just a mite too sure of yourself, mister," Scott said. "It doesn't pay to leave the table for anything when you play poker."

Rage flew into Bonney. "You mean you cheated!" he exploded. "This is robbery!"

Scott shook his head. "Not robbery, friend. Just honest playin' for once. All I did was ring in a new deck of cards."

"A new deck?" Bonney cried, not understanding. "But— but—"

"That's right," Scott said dryly. "You forgot I stayed here after the rest of you left last night. I collected the cards together an' studied them an' fixed up a new deck."

He stared hard at Bonney, studying him. Then he went on:

"Only I reckon I did maybe cheat a mite. I didn't mark all the cards just the way you had."

"You're loco!" Bonney exclaimed, feeling cornered. "You can't prove I used marked cards. Maybe the cards were marked like you say, but that don't mean I marked 'em!"

"An' I'm not interested in provin' it," Scott said in a slow drawl. "All I'm interested in is the money you won from us. That," he added, "an' those duds you're wearin'. I told you I had a hankerin' for them."

He cocked the Colt with a steady thumb. "Take them off, mister," he ordered in a hard voice. "You'll still have your ornery hide—which is a lot more than you'd have left us with if you'd had the chance!"

THE END



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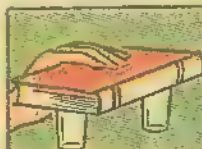
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YOU can.

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How YOU give me

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and I'll give YOU a New
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OVER by the SAME method I turned
myself from a wreck to the strongest
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what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of
skinny fellows like YOU?

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MUSCLE added to your ARMS and
CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS
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gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be
A WINNER IN EVERYTHING you tackle.

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POWER SYSTEM
BUILDS YOU
5-WAYS FAST
SO YOU
SAVE YEARS
AND
DOLLARS

GEORGE
F. JOWETT
Champion at
Champions
4 times Winner
Tennis
Man Contest

like John
BECOME A
MOVIE STAR
HE-MAN

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU ^{do} as I did
in 10 EASY MINUTES of FUN a day
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